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MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

10. (Amended) A coagulating sedimentation apparatus [according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of annular troughs concentrically] for precipitating and separating suspended solids, coagulated flocs or the like in a liquid to be treated, so as to clarify said liquid, said sedimentation apparatus comprising:

a sedimentation tank;

a chamber vertically disposed within said tank concentrically therewith, for introducing said liquid therein;

a distributor for distributing said liquid from said chamber into a sedimentation space between said tank and said chamber; and

a plurality of annular troughs concentrically arranged in an upper portion of said tank.

11. (Amended) A coagulating sedimentation apparatus according to claim [1] 10, wherein said plurality of annular troughs are positioned and dimensioned such that weir parts of all said plurality of annular troughs into which a [supernatant in said sedimentation space within said tank] clarified liquid spills out have a substantially identical overflow liquid load.

12. (Amended) A coagulating sedimentation apparatus according to claim [1] 10, wherein said plurality of annular troughs comprise an annular trough with a larger diameter disposed along a side wall of said tank, and an annular trough with a smaller diameter disposed in an intermediate portion between said side wall of said tank and [mixing] said chamber.

13. (Amended) A coagulating sedimentation apparatus according to claim [3] 12, wherein said plurality of annular troughs are positioned and dimensioned so as to satisfy the following expression:

$$\frac{\pi\{D_1^2 - [(D_2 + D_3)/2]^2\}}{\pi D_2} = \frac{\pi\{[(D_2 + D_3)/2]^2 - [(D_3 + D_4)/2]^2\}}{\pi D_3}$$

$$= \frac{\pi\{[(D_3 + D_4)/2]^2 - R_1^2\}}{\pi D_3}$$

wherein D_1 is the inside diameter of the side wall of the tank, D_2 is the inside diameter of the inner weir part of the annular trough with a larger diameter, D_3 is the outside diameter of the outer weir part of the annular trough with a smaller diameter, and D_4 is the inside diameter of the inner weir part of the annular trough with a smaller diameter, and R_1 is the outside diameter of [the mixing] said chamber.

14. (Amended) A coagulating sedimentation apparatus according to claim [1] 10, [further comprising a member secured to a mixer device, for supporting a center shaft] wherein said chamber is adapted to be fed with an additive, and to mix said liquid and said additive for coagulating the suspended solids or the like in said liquid.